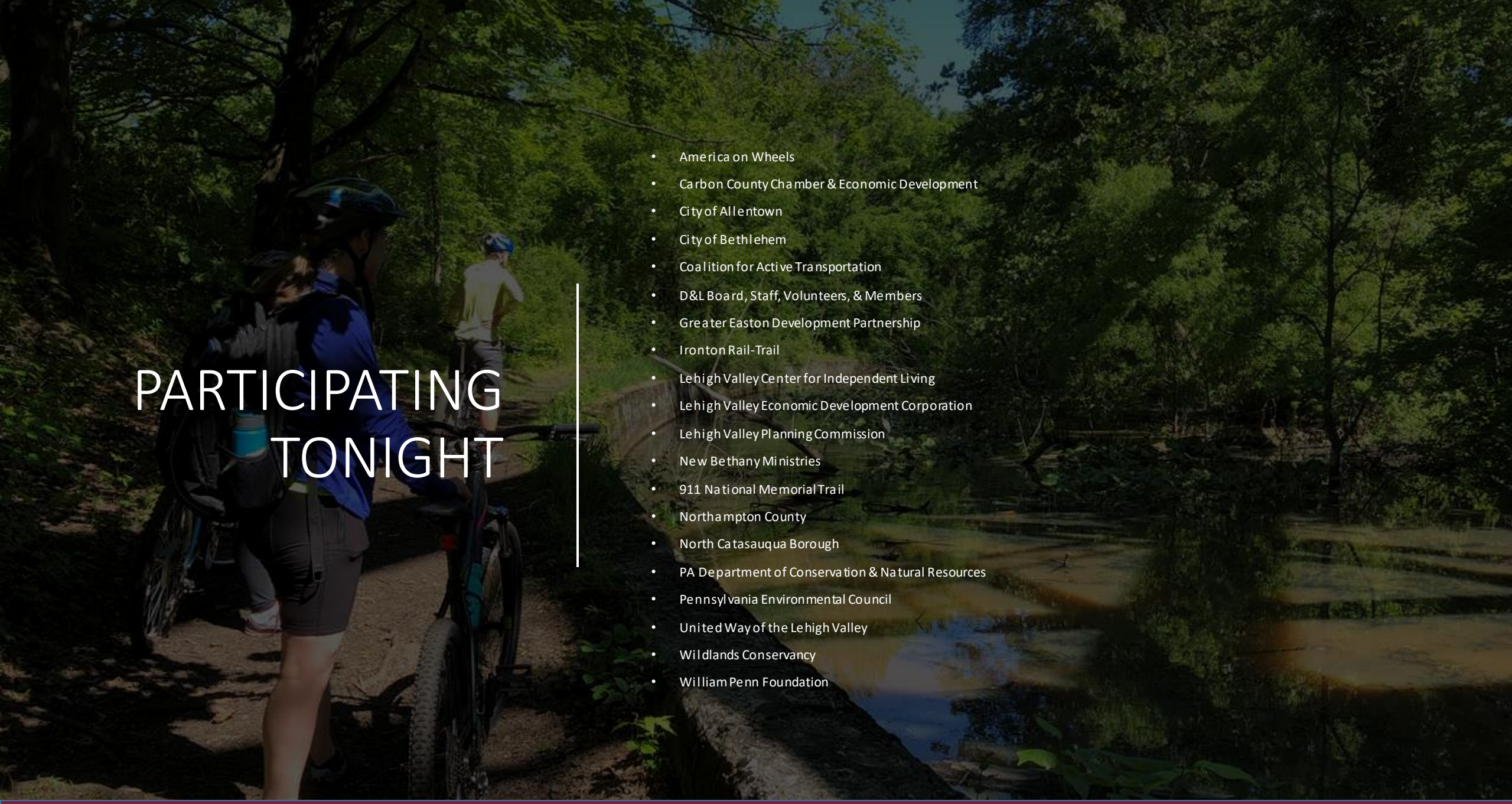
INTERACTIVE TOWN HALL

June 15, 2020

Our mission:

to inspire connections

- DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn
- Elissa Garofalo, D&L Executive Director
- Mike Drabenstott, D&L Board Chair



PARTICIPATING TONIGHT

- America on Wheels
- Carbon County Chamber & Economic Development
- City of Allentown
- City of Bethlehem
- Coalition for Active Transportation
- D&L Board, Staff, Volunteers, & Members
- Greater Easton Development Partnership
- Ironton Rail-Trail
- Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living
- Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation
- Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
- New Bethany Ministries
- 911 National Memorial Trail
- Northampton County
- North Catasauqua Borough
- PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources
- Pennsylvania Environmental Council
- United Way of the Lehigh Valley
- Wildlands Conservancy
- William Penn Foundation

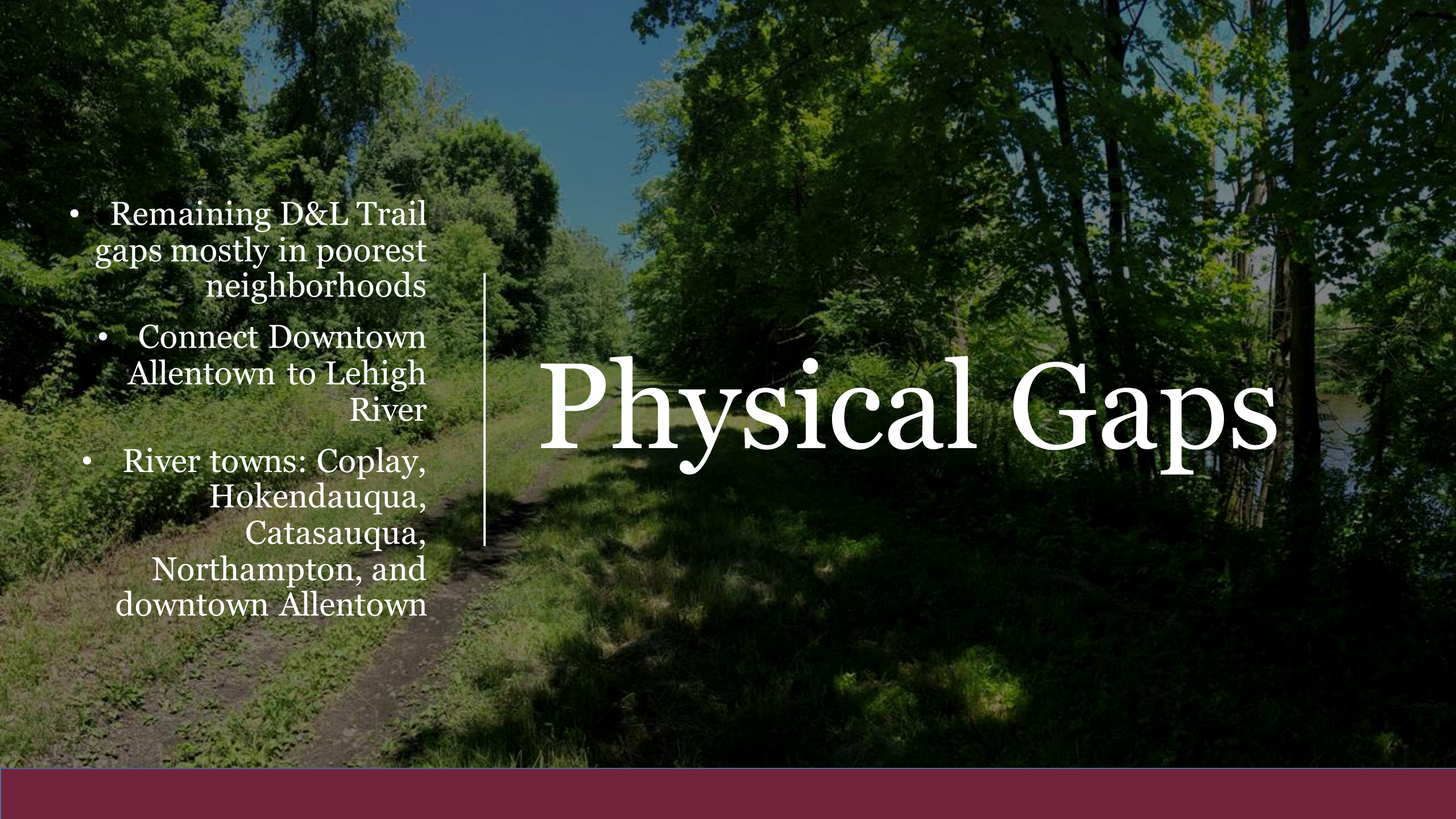
TUNNEL
PROUD TO TRAIL THE CIRCUIT TRAILS
PROUD TO TRAIL THE CIRCUIT TRAILS
PROUD TO TRAIL THE CIRCUIT TRAILS
PROUD TO TRAIL THE CIRCUIT TRAILS
PROUD TO TRAIL THE CIRCUIT TRAILS
PROUD TO TRAIL THE CIRCUIT TRAILS

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn

CLOSING GAPS

Physical
Historical
Community



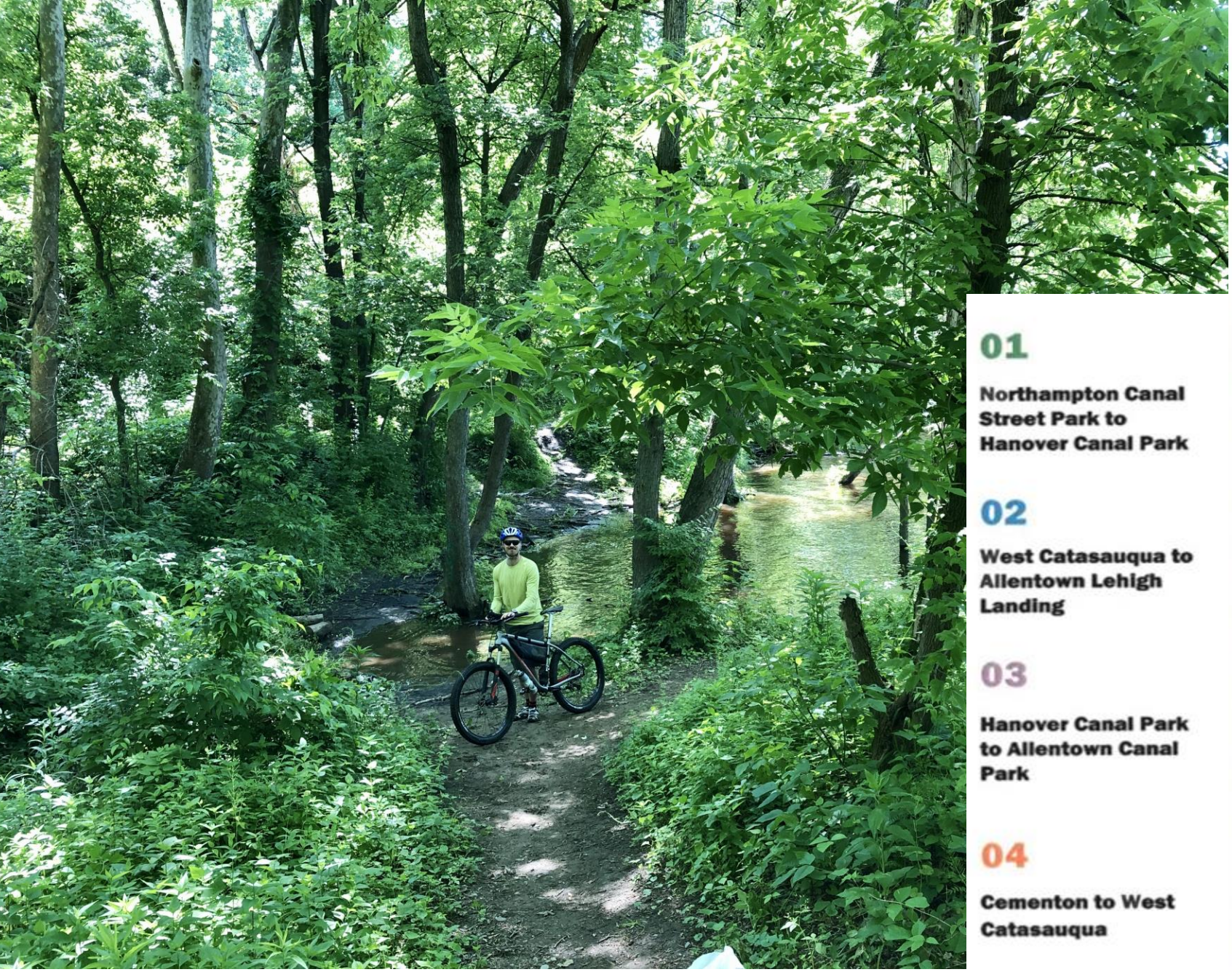
Physical Gaps

- Remaining D&L Trail gaps mostly in poorest neighborhoods
- Connect Downtown Allentown to Lehigh River
- River towns: Coplay, Hokendauqua, Catasauqua, Northampton, and downtown Allentown

DRY RUN BRIDGE

Before

After



01

Northampton Canal Street Park to Hanover Canal Park

02

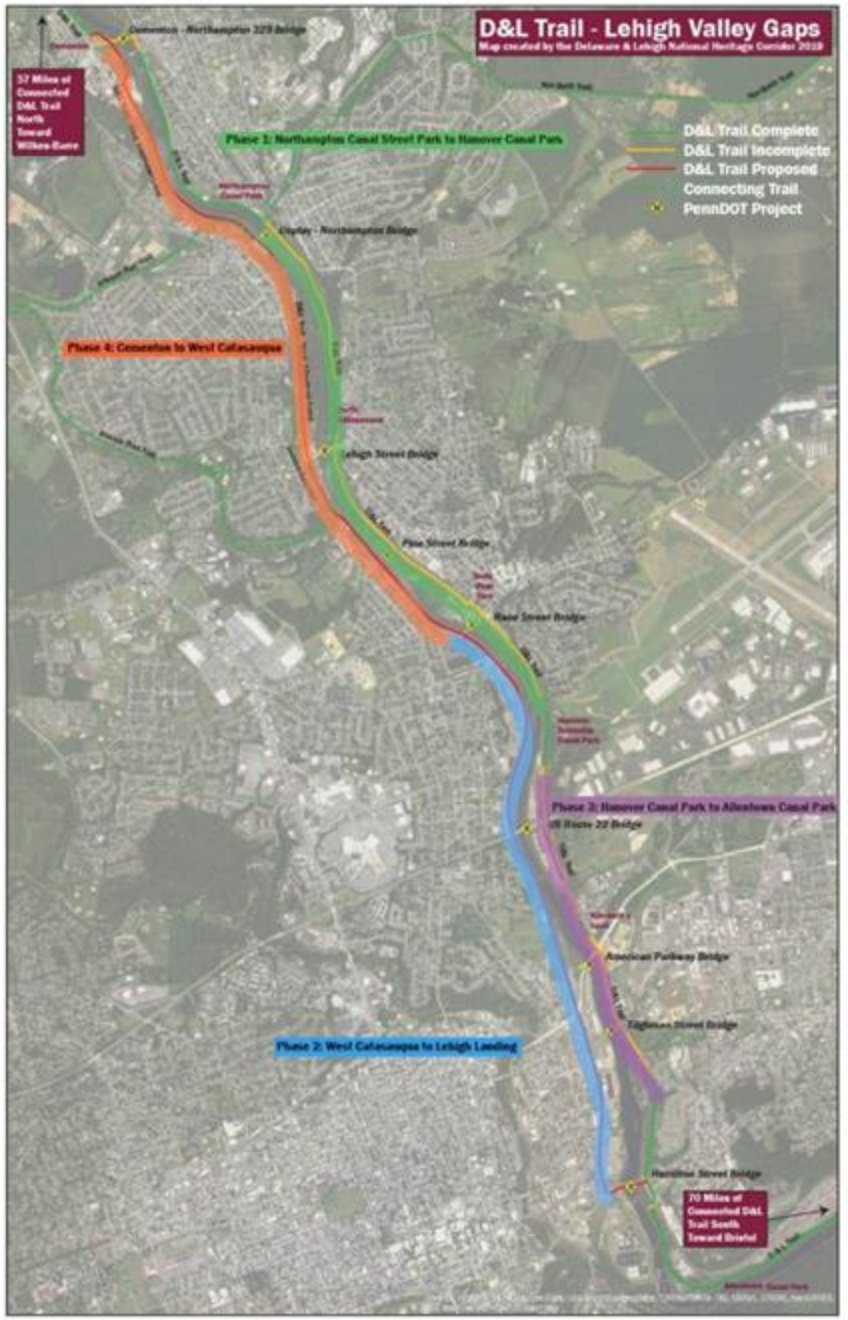
West Catasauqua to Allentown Lehigh Landing

03

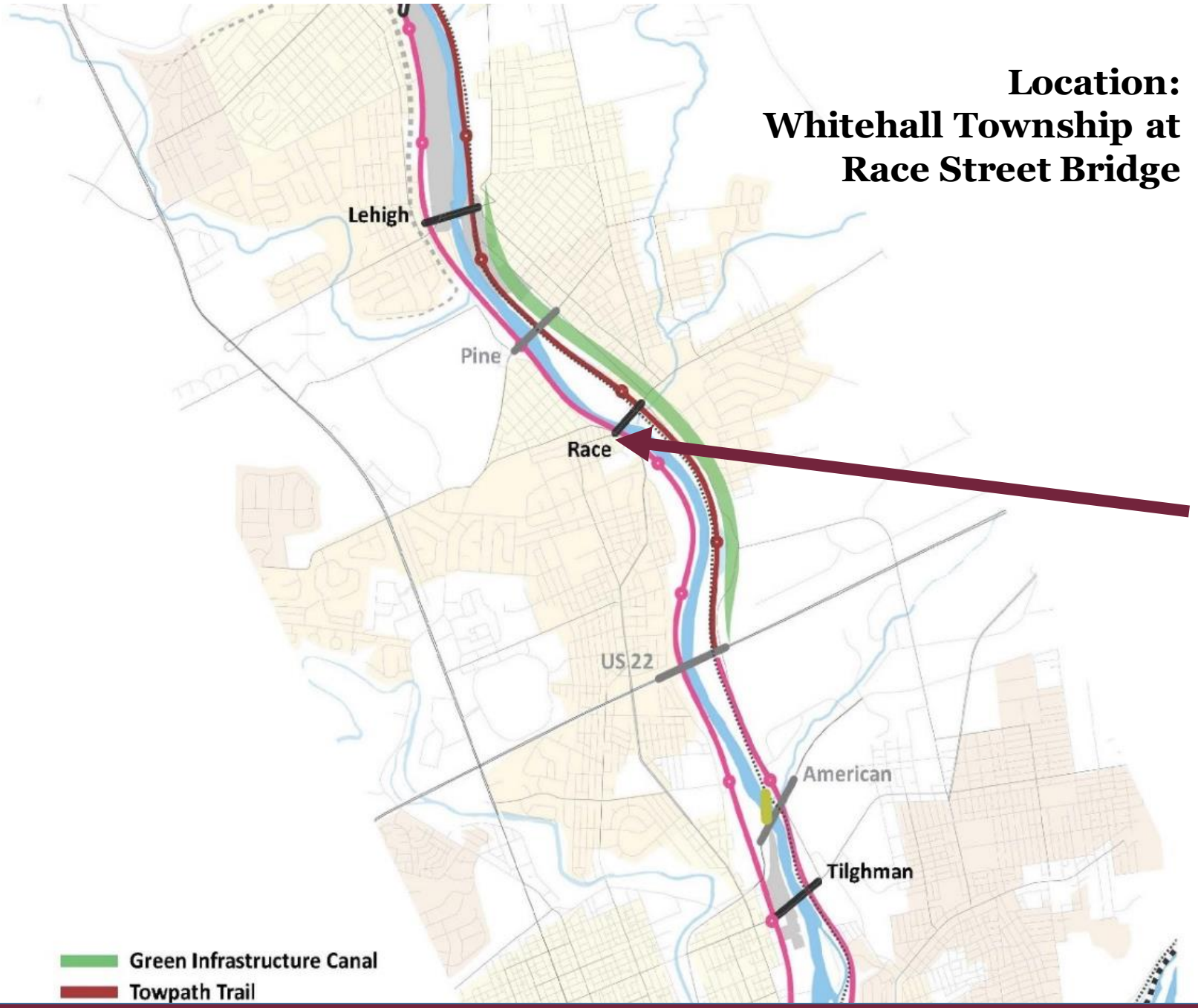
Hanover Canal Park to Allentown Canal Park

04

Cementon to West Catasauqua

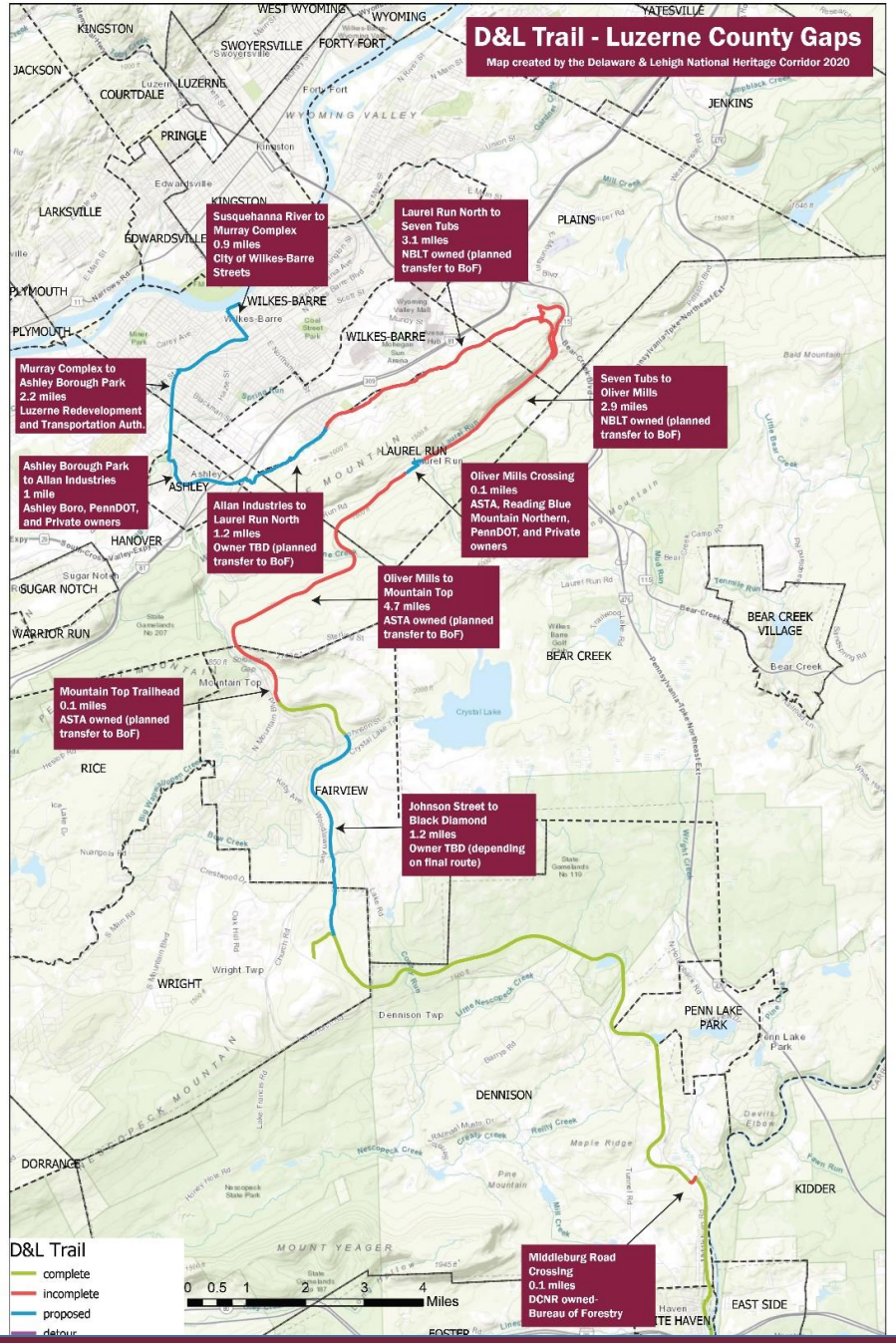


Location: Whitehall Township at Race Street Bridge



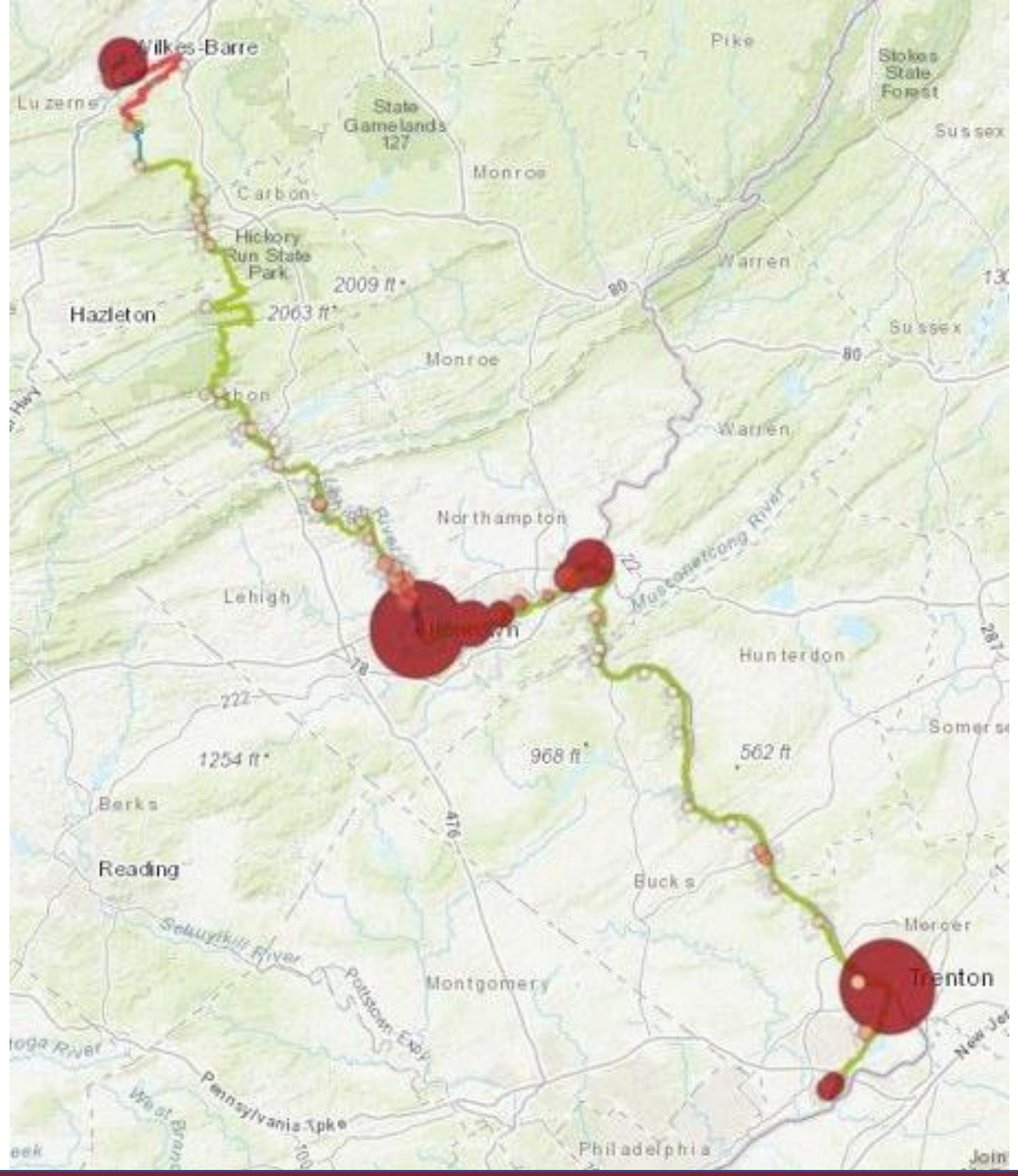
BUILD RIVERSIDE DRIVE

buildriversidedrive.com


D&L Trail - Luzerne County Gaps
Map created by the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor 2020
Susquehanna River to Murray Complex
0.9 miles
City of Wilkes-Barre Streets
Laurel Run North to Seven Tubs
3.1 miles
NBLT owned (planned transfer to BoF)
Murray Complex to Ashley Borough Park
2.2 miles
Luzerne Redevelopment and Transportation Auth.
Seven Tubs to Oliver Mills
2.9 miles
NBLT owned (planned transfer to BoF)
Ashley Borough Park to Allan Industries
1 mile
Ashley Boro, PennDOT, and Private owners
Allan Industries to Laurel Run North
1.2 miles
Owner TBD (planned transfer to BoF)
Oliver Mills Crossing
0.1 miles
ASTA, Reading Blue Mountain Northern, PennDOT, and Private owners
Oliver Mills to Mountain Top
4.7 miles
ASTA owned (planned transfer to BoF)
Mountain Top Trailhead
0.1 miles
ASTA owned (planned transfer to BoF)
Johnson Street to Black Diamond
1.2 miles
Owner TBD (depending on final route)
Middleburg Road Crossing
0.1 miles
DCNR owned-Bureau of Forestry
D&L Trail
complete
incomplete
proposed
detour
0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Miles

NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR- BLACK DIAMOND SEGMENT- PROPOSED

NAVARRO & WRIGHT
CONSULTING ENGINEERS, INC.



Social & Cultural Gaps

- We're Listening
- We're Learning
- We want to improve

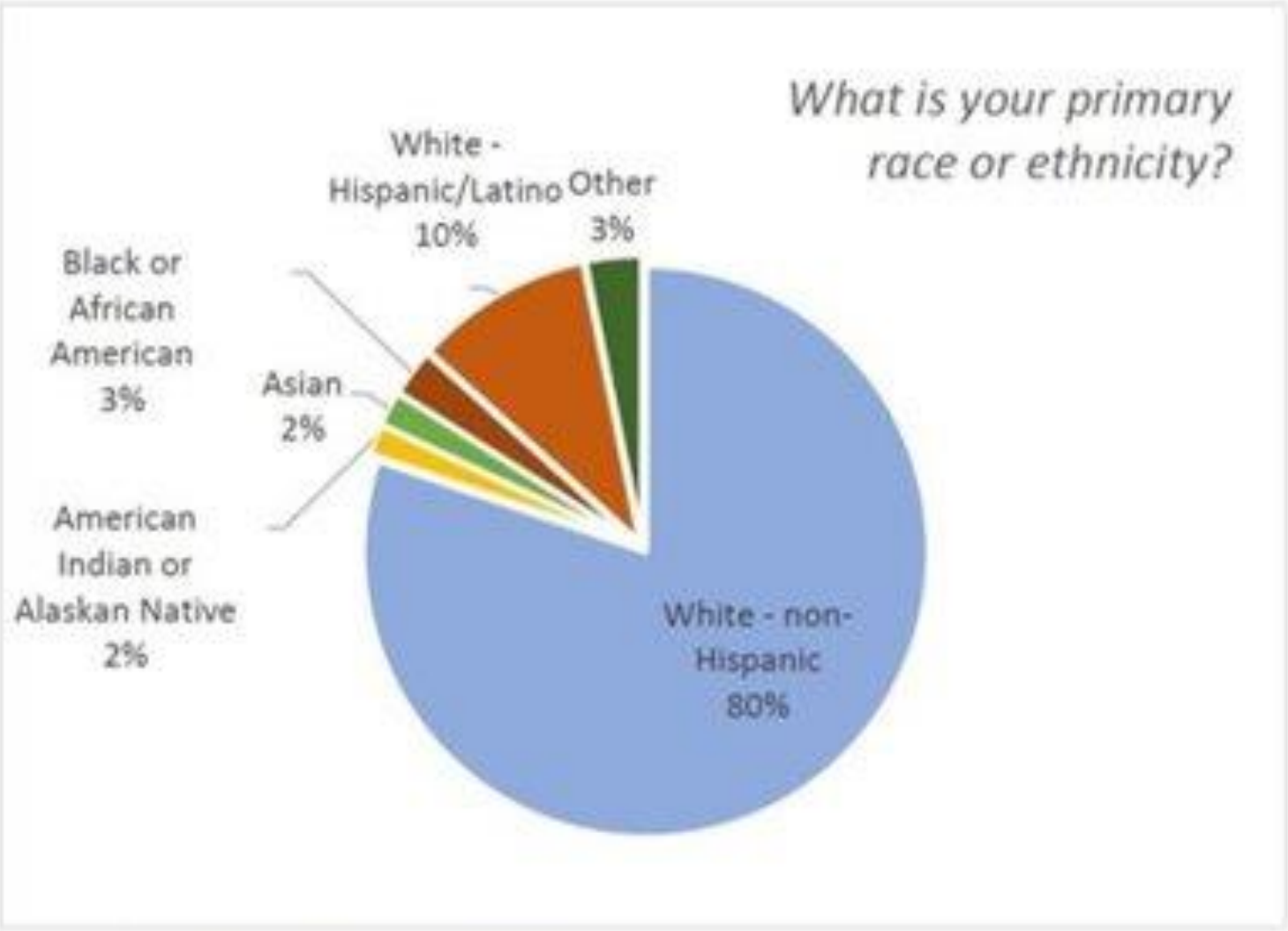


Figure 1. Trail users' race or ethnicity.

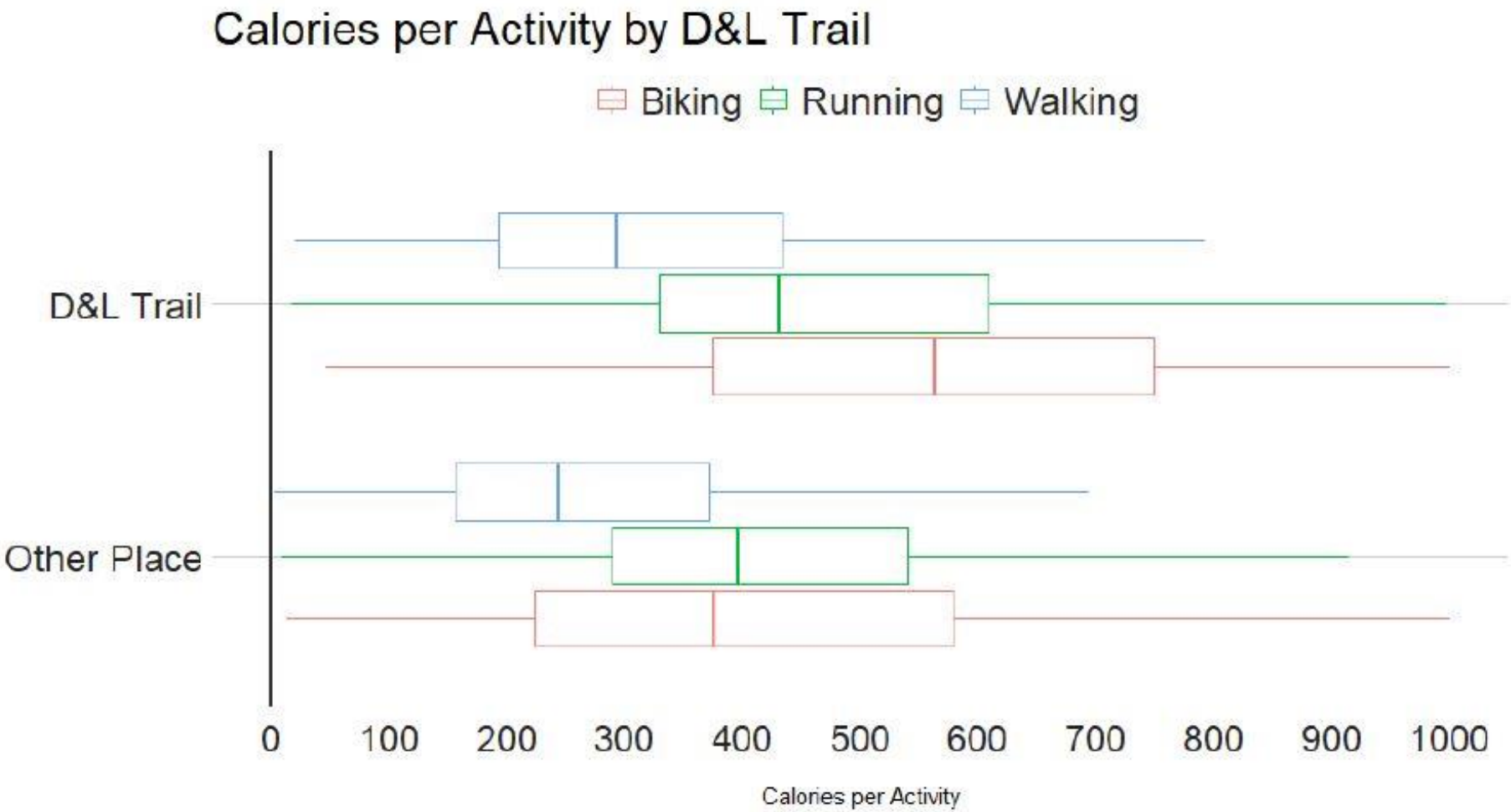
A legacy of inequality

Consistently, neighborhoods with higher rates of poverty and more racial diversity lack access to the D&L Trail.

THE D&L MEANS BUSINESS

PA outdoor recreation economy generates $29 billion in consumer spending and $1.9 billion in taxes

Tripp Umbach Study- $474 million Corridor-wide economic impact



Walkable, bikeable, transit-oriented communities = healthier populations

that have more physical activity, lower body weight, lower rates of traffic injuries, less air pollution, and improved mobility for non-drivers.*

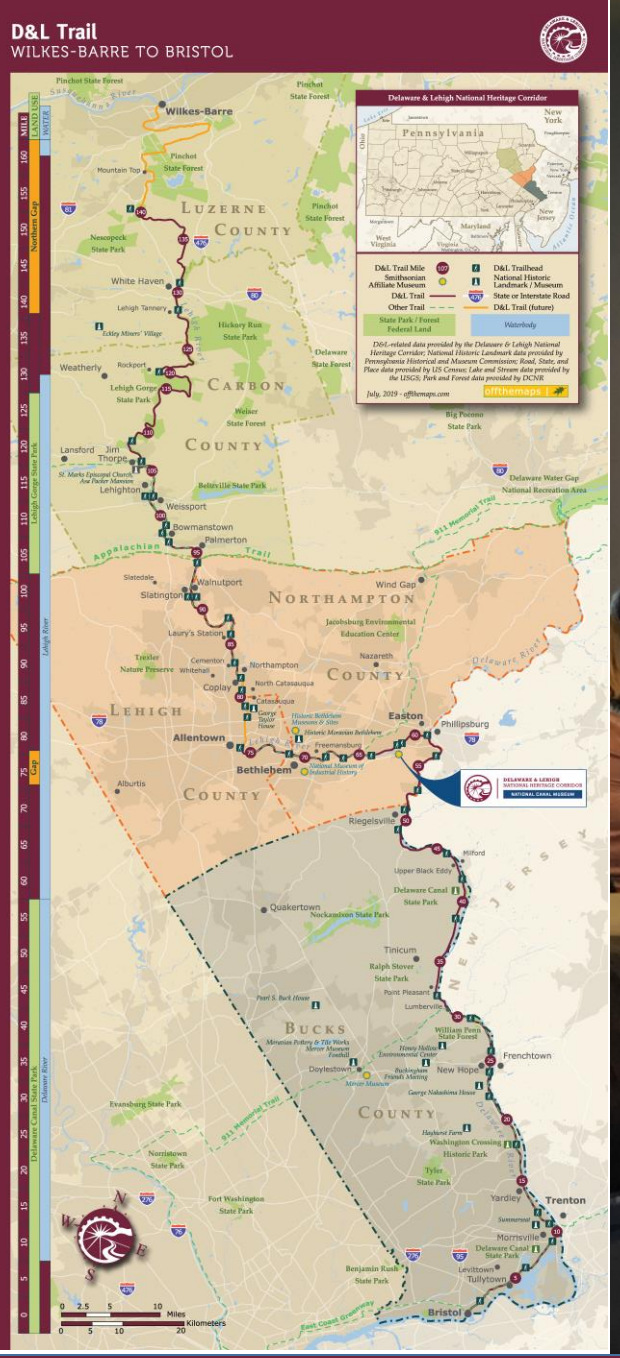
*Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Planning for physical gaps
- Pursue alternative funding sources
- Host community conversations & listening sessions
- Foster a more inclusive organizational climate
- Improve policies and training, as needed
- Building advocates

Resources

- delawareandlehigh.org/ → trail maps, National Canal Museum, programs, events and more
- delawareandlehigh.org/support/ → many ways to support the D&L
  - Donate to 2020 D&L Campaign for Resilience
  - Become a member
  - Volunteer time and talent
- www.buildriversidedrive.com
  - Help us get over 1,000 support letters! Click "Show Your Support" in top left; takes less than 2 minutes.
- Strategy Triage Tool from Center for Community Investment
  - You may be tempted to back burner projects – think again!
- 2018 D&L Trail User Survey – Lafayette College
- Lehigh Valley Catalyst: D&L Trail – a Framework Plan by PennPraxis (provided in future link)



QUESTIONS?

Contact with **nature** reduces stress, depression, and blood pressure; increases **concentration, creativity** and **learning;** and connects **people** to their **community.** This helps reduce medical care costs and enhances **productivity.***

*Lehigh Valley Planning Commission Return on Environment Report

TAKE ACTION!

- Send a support letter for the BUILD grant
- Take the post-event survey
- Donate your time, talent or treasure
- Be heard
  - Let your community leaders know the importance of connecting the D&L through the Lehigh Valley and into Wilkes-Barre
  - Introduce friends and neighbors to the trail
  - Share your trail experience on social media #dltrail

Elissa Garofalo
610-923-3548 x223
Elissa@delawareandlehigh.org